Appln No. 09/594,873
Amdt. Dated July 17, 2005
Reply to Office Communication of 09/11/02
Docket No.14XZ87

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended):   A method of visualization of a ~~part of a~~ three-dimensional image, ~~wherein the part is defined by a finite predetermined volume, the center of which is located on an element of interest present in the three-dimensional image.~~

comprising:

displaying the three-dimensional image;

selecting a point on an element of interest present in the three-dimensional image;

creating in a part of the three-dimensional image a volume whose dimensions are predetermined and whose center is the point on the element of interest;

making an interactive intersection between the predetermined volume and the part of the three-dimensional image; and

visualizing only that part of the three-dimensional image contained in the predetermined volume.

2 (canceled).

3 (currently amended):   The method of visualization according to claim 1[,] wherein the predetermined volume can be displaced in the three-dimensional image according to a translational motion, while displaying only the part of the three-dimensional image contained at each instant in the predetermined volume.

4 (canceled).

5 (currently amended):   The method of visualization according to claim 1 [,] wherein ~~one~~ displaying the part of the three-dimensional image contained in the predetermined volume as well as any other part of the three-dimensional image not

contained in a cylinder, with the predetermined volume, of section identical to the section of the predetermined volume and of infinite length, and in that any part of the three-dimensional image not contained in the cylinder is displayed in degraded mode.

6 (canceled).

7 (currently amended):   The method of visualization according to claim 1 [,] wherein once a part of the three-dimensional image is visualized in the predetermined volume, the dimensions of that predetermined volume can be modified by an operator.

8 (canceled).

9 (currently amended):   The method of visualization according to claim 1 [,] wherein the predetermined volume is a sphere whose diameter is equal to half the width of the three-dimensional image display window.

10 (canceled).

11 (currently amended):   The method of visualization according to claim 1 [2,] wherein once the point is selected on the element of interest, a translation of the three-dimensional image is made, so as to place the point in the center of the three-dimensional display window.

12 (currently amended):   The method of visualization according to claim 1 [2,] wherein the point is selected by means of a cursor.